



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

MICHAEL M. CLINE  
State Coordinator

10501 Trade Court  
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713  
(804) 897-6500  
(TDD) 674-2417  
FAX (804) 897-6506

**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #16  
Friday, 31 May 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

*1200 hours 29 May 2002 through 1200 hours 31 May 2002. (New information in italics)*

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

On 15 May 2002 Amendment No. 2 was made to the Major Disaster Declaration to include Individual Assistance for the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Cumberland, Greensville, Prince Edward, Shenandoah, and the independent City of Bedford.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Friday. The DFO will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Situation Reports will be published on Tuesdays for FEMA-1406-DR-VA, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for FEMA-1411-DR-VA.

**3. WEATHER:**

*Friday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 80 to 85. West winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.*

**4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Remove obstacles to optimize debris removal.
- B. Expedite immediate housing needs and coordinate with long-term housing requirements.
- C. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- D. Resolve access problems for temporary housing.

**5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:****A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- Residents, requiring disaster assistance, are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS***Daily Report*

***Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA  
Opened 7 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 6 days/week closed on Sundays.***

| Date  | Today's Recp. | Phone Bank | AA* | SBA* | HazMit* | IFG* | DUA* | CC* | IRS* | AGRI* | INS* | AGING* | VOL* | LEGAL* | Local Official | Paper Apps. |
|-------|---------------|------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 05/30 | 24            | 0          | 19  | 9    | 7       | 1    | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 1           |
| Total | 633           | 116        | 453 | 332  | 271     | 8    | 44   | 8   | 38   | 0     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0      | 0              | 40          |

\*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- Red Cross has ceased distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Total number of meals served to date is 88,833.
- *The Small Business Administration has approved 46 disaster loans for \$1,005,600 to homeowners, renters, and business owners that suffered as a result of the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred 28 April through 3 May 2002. Of this amount \$174,000 was approved for physical businesses and \$87,700 for business economic injury.*
- Buchanan County and FEMA staff provided 1100 meals to Hurley residents from 25 May through 30 May 2002.
- *Buchanan County served 9,251 meals at the Hurley Middle School from 3 May through 20 May.*
- *There were a total of 46 Americorps Volunteers in five teams assisting residents with home cleanup in Hurley. Three teams will remain through 1 June with the last team due to leave on 7 June. To date 75 homes have been cleaned.*
- The United Methodists and Church of the Brethren Christian Aide Ministries anticipate having teams in Hurley on 10 June and 17 June respectively, to begin casework for group home repairs.

- Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. *Donations of other items including cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves are still needed.*
- The Buchanan County Health Department will perform free testing of well water through mid-August 2002.
- Crisis Counseling: Crisis counseling Assistance and training Program (CCP). The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning within the declaration area and providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing services as needed. The Immediate Services Program Grant application was submitted to FEMA on Friday, 17 May. The Board has received FEMA approval for \$42,494 under the Immediate Services Program Grant provision of the CCP. CMCSB contact is Sherry Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator- O; 276-964-6703; C; 276-964-1682.
- Coordinator of State Recovery Task Force met with officials from Buchanan and Wise Counties regarding a local Disaster Recovery Task Force for their locality. Follow-up meetings are planned for June 2002.
- Anticipated Significant Activities: Continue DRC and DFO staffing and Support Coordination Activities. *Continue working long-term housing issues.*
- ***The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 30 May 2002 follows:***

#### Registrations & Contacts

|                          | <i>Since Last sitrep</i> | <i>Designated Cities/Counties</i> | <i>Undesignated Counties</i> | <i>Cumulative</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Teleregistrations</i> | 25                       | 1326/10                           | 20                           | 1356              |
| <i>Help line Calls</i>   | 43                       |                                   |                              | 1055              |
|                          |                          |                                   |                              |                   |

#### Disaster Unemployment Assistance

| <i>CLAIMS</i>    | <i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i> | <i>TOTAL</i> |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Filed</i>     | 2                        | 19           |
| <i>Approved</i>  | 7                        | 13           |
| <i>Paid (#)</i>  | 8                        | 13           |
| <i>Paid (\$)</i> | \$2,281                  | \$3,621      |

#### Disaster Housing Program

| <i>REGISTRATIONS</i>            | <i>SINCE LAST IA REPORT</i> | <i>TOTAL</i>   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Received</i>                 | 17                          | 1173           |
| <i>Approved</i>                 | 22                          | 851            |
| <i>Pending</i>                  |                             | 71             |
| <i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>   | \$34,991.38                 | \$1,615,115.54 |
| <b><i>Assistance Checks</i></b> |                             |                |
| <i>Recommended (#)</i>          | 33                          | 902            |
| <i>Recommended (\$)</i>         | \$58,520.06                 | \$1,670,004.34 |
|                                 |                             |                |

#### Individual & Family Grant Program

| <i>REGISTRATIONS</i>     | <i>SINCE LAST SITREP</i> | <i>TOTAL</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Received</i>          | 15                       | 720          |
| <i>Received by State</i> | +19                      | 655          |
| <i>Pending Decision</i>  | - 0                      | 122          |
| <i>Eligible (#)</i>      | +34                      | 153          |
| <i>Eligible (\$)</i>     | +\$105,338.00            | \$432,713.00 |
| <i>Disbursed (#)</i>     | 00                       | 00           |
| <i>Disbursed (\$)</i>    |                          |              |

**(NINETY ONE APPROVED PAYMENTS ARE ON HOLD PENDING AUTHORIZATION BY DPB)**

**Small Business Administration**

| LOAN APPLICATIONS    | HOME      | BUSINESS  | ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL) | TOTAL     |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| <i>[* Issued</i>     | 609       | 143       | 0                      | 752       |
| <i>Received</i>      | 170       | 31        | 32                     | 233       |
| <i>Declined</i>      | 43        | 8         | 1                      | 52        |
| <i>Withdrawn</i>     | 12        | 4         | 11                     | 27        |
| <i>Approved (#)</i>  | 41        | 2         | 2                      | 45        |
| <i>Approved (\$)</i> | \$733,600 | \$174,300 | \$87,700               | \$995,600 |
| <i>Pending</i>       | 57        | 17        | 18                     | 92        |

- Disaster assistance to Buchanan County was expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications were accepted through 17 May 2002. A total of \$250,000 in Emergency Food Stamps was distributed.
- *Eleven travel trailers are now occupied. Fourteen trailers were in place by close of business 30 May.* IA estimates that 50 trailers may be needed. Travel trailers are being tied to existing utilities.
- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and leave a callback number.

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- *The Corps contractor, DRC, began removal of debris today from the Hurley area.*
- *All signatories are reviewing a draft Demolition Operations Plan among the Commonwealth of Virginia, the County of Buchanan, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dated 31 May 2002.*
- *Approximately 85% of the homes on the County Judge's demolition list, for the Hurley area, are mobile homes.*
- *To date \$6,922,326.94 has been obligated in public assistance.*
- There are 86 homes/buildings are on the list for potential demolition. The Corps of Engineers can demolish houses destroyed or unable to be repaired. The Commonwealth anticipates that a County Judge will issue orders citing the homes/buildings to be demolished.
- Project worksheets have been written and obligated for replacement of 10 to 14 County bridges at a cost of over \$1 million. Additionally, many private bridges are being constructed. To date 20% have been completed.

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- *Three FEMA field officers deployed today to the Hurley community and surrounding areas in Buchanan County, to Bedford and Campbell Counties and to Emporia, VA.*
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- *Demolition of non-repairable structures.* R. Dameron (VDEM) met with P. Navesky (USACE) on 23 May to discuss the demolition procedures and reporting requirements to ensure that any demolition does not jeopardize a potential FEMA acquisition project.
- FEMA is currently conducting “targeted Mitigation surveys of the damaged structures in the Buchanan County area (1411). VDEM has requested and was verbally assured that the information provided in the FEMA surveys (if totally completed) can be utilized to support a benefit cost analysis as required for acquisition of structures may need more detailed surveys.
- *Buchanan County has received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund alternate housing for residents who cannot rebuild. HM and IA staffs are monitoring progress of project for possible assistance opportunities.*
- Possible NFIP compliance issues.  
Coordinated with State IA Officer and Deputy Coordinating Officer for strategy to address the process for IFG Program in Hurley.
- Coordinated with Army Corps of Engineers Emergency operations Team for obtaining their list of structures targeted by Buchanan County for possible demolition.

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- *Today, the FCO and State Public Affairs Officer participated in a radio talk show at WNRG in Grundy.*
- Two news releases were issued, one on mold and its dangers following flooding and the other on crisis counseling.
- A news release reminding disaster victims to register with FEMA even if they have registered locally with the American Cross and providing the FEMA Teleregistration/HelpLine telephone numbers has been issued.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- *No current activity to report.*

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Phase 1 of Recovery and Disposal has been completed.
- The following containers have been disposed of: 16-1 lb propane tanks; 5-20 lb propane tanks; 19-100 lb propane tanks; 5-500 gal propane tanks; 1-330 gal propane tank, 2-250 gal propane tanks; 282-5 gal containers; 10-35 gal drums; 83-55 gal drums; 343 household waste containers; 1-20,000 gal tank; 3-1,000 gal tanks; 11-550 gal tanks; 10-275 gal tanks; 36 auto gas tanks; 38 water tanks; 31 water heaters; 8 freon tanks; 12 cylinders; 60 batteries; 1 sandblaster; 4 kerosene heaters; 28 gas cans; 3 fuel pumps; 5 transformers; 25 capacitors; 800 gals of fuel disposed.

RHO  
31 May 2002

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Michael M. Cline, SCO